Jason A. Higgins, Ph.D.
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Jason A. Higgins, Ph.D.
Digital Scholarship Coordinator, Virginia Tech Publishing & Press
Assistant Professor of History
Associate Director, VT Center for Oral History

Education

Ph.D. in History, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2021
Fields: Modern US, African American, and Global History
Passed comprehensive exams with highest distinction.
Graduate Certificate in Public History
Fields: Communication and Oral History
M.A. in English, Oklahoma State University, 2016
Focus on Literature, Composition and Rhetoric, and Editing
B.A. in English and History, University of Arkansas at Monticello, 2013
Magna Cum Laude

Peer-reviewed Publications

Books

Prisoners after War: Veterans in the Age of Mass Incarceration (University of Massachusetts Press, 2024).

- Winner, Oral History Association, 2025 Best Book Award
- Winner, Albert L. Sturm Award for Research Excellence, Phi Beta Kappa, Mu Chapter of Virginia, 2026
- Finalist, Veterans Studies Association, 2026 Biennial Distinguished Book Award
- Honorable Mention, National Council on Public History, 2026 Book Award

Service Denied: Marginalized Veterans in Modern American History, co-editor (University of Massachusetts Press, 2022).

Digital Humanities Sites

Face to Face with Slavery: Documenting the Legacies of Enslavement through the Stories of Descendants, Virginia Tech Publishing & Press, (2026).

Dissidents: Veterans Speak Out for Justice, Virginia Tech Publishing & Press, (May 2026).

Articles

"Through Star-Spangled Eyes: Lew Puller's *Fortunate Son* and the Problem of Resolution," *War, Literature & the Arts* Vol. 30 (2018).

Awards and Honors

Faculty Research Grant, Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2026.
VT Center for Humanities Summer Research Stipend.
Freedom Scholars Award, Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2025-26.
Rising Star Alumni Award, Oklahoma State University, College of Arts and Sciences, 2024.
Fellow, VT Diggs Teaching Scholar Association, 2023-24.
Rising Star Award, UAM Alumni Association, 2021.
Kenneth R. Feinberg Fellowship, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, UMass Amherst, for research that recognizes the value of human life, 2020.
Finalist for the Distinguished Teaching Award, Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development, UMass Amherst, 2020.
Ermonian Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, UMass History, 2018.
OSU Graduate College Research Excellence Award for master's thesis, 2017.
UMass Graduate History Association Conference, Outstanding Paper Prize Winner, 2016.

Grants

Co-PI, "For the Families, For the Future: Virginia Legacies of Sacrifice from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars," Veterans Affairs Veterans Legacy Grants Program, pending decision, 2026.
Co-PI, "Stories of the Fallen and the Rise of Women in the Military," Virginia Humanities Grant, 2024-25.
Co-PI, VT University Libraries Collaboration Grant, "Oral Histories with Virginia Tech Alumni who Served in the Vietnam War," 2024-25.
Co-PI, VT University Libraries Collaboration Grant, "Teaching Historical Racial Traumas," 2024-25.
TOME (Toward an Open Access Ecosystem) grant for open-access publication of *Prisoners after War,* Virginia Tech, 2023.
Co-PI, VT University Libraries Collaboration Grant, "A New Model for Publishing Oral Histories," 2023-24.
Lead PI, National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Institute for K-12 Educators, "Crossing Divides: Connecting Veterans, Teachers and Students through Oral History," 36 percent acceptance rate, 2022-23.
PI, Pathways to Service-Learning Grant, Pathways General Education at VT, to carry out community engaged project in collaboration with Dr. Kerri Moselely-Hobbs, executive director of the More Than a Fraction Foundation, 2022-23.
PI, Faculty mini-grant, Office of Undergraduate Research, to build capacity to carry out student-led oral history projects, 2022-23.
Lead PI, CLAHS Departmental Diversity Grant, "Descendants of Enslaved Community Project" to develop community relations with Fraction family members and continue oral history project with descendant communities, 2022.
PI, 4-VA Collaborative Grant, Crossing the Military-Civilian Divide: Oral Histories with Virginia Veterans," in collaboration with Andre Taylor, College of William & Mary, 2021-23.
Bauer-Gordon Summer Research Fellow, UMass History, 2017-21.
UMass Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant, 2020.
Jumpstart Grant, UMass History, (2020).
Organization of American Historians, Mellon Grant, 2019.

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Oral History Association Conference Presenter Scholarship, 2018.
UMass Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, 2018.
UMass Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, 2017.
UMass Public History Program Charles Hyde Intern Fellowship, 2017.
Hands-On Grant, UMass History, 2017.
Newberry Renaissance Consortium Grant, Newberry Library, Chicago, 2015.

Conferences and Presentations

Panel organizer and presenter, "Recording Legacies of Freedom: Oral Histories with Descendant Communities at Virginia Tech University Libraries," Universities Studying Slavery Conference at the University of Maryland, Oct. 22-25, 2026.

Panel organizer and presenter, "Facing Slavery and the Subversive Work of Digital Revolution," American Association for State and Local History and National Council on Public History joint conference, in Providence, RI, Sept. 16-19, 2026. Panel accepted after two rounds of peer-review.

Panelist, "Beyond Journals: Exploring the Process of Book Creation in the Veteran Space," Veterans Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL, Mar. 26-28, 2026.

Presenter, "Rendering Women Veterans Visible Through Oral Histories," Veterans Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL, Mar. 26-28, 2026.

Panel moderator, "Fostering Reparative Relationships with/in Digital Spaces," Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Roanoke, VA, Oct. 8, 2025.

Invited plenary panelist, "Leveling Up Your University Journal Publishing Program," GWU Student Journal Symposium for Literary and Research Publications, May 2, 2025.

Co-Presenter, "Entangling Stories to Organize Digital Scholarship: Creating Generative, Community-Engaged Workflows," Library Publishing Forum 2025, April 30.

Invited panelist by conference organizers of the 2025 Student Veterans of America National Conference, Colorado Springs, Jan. 4, 2025.

Invited speaker, 2024 Military Life Cycle and Transition Summit," University of Chicago, August 9, 2024.

Invited speaker, "Toward Reconciliation," Historic Smithfield 250th Anniversary, Blacksburg, VA, July 26, 2024.

Invited speaker, "Justice Involved Veterans: Causes and Solutions," New York Health Foundation, July 9, 2024.

Panelist, "For Justice, For Peace: Veterans Battling for a Better America," Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, LA, Apr. 13, 2024.

Moderator and panel organizer, "Revisiting Race and Racism in the Vietnam War," Society for Military History, Arlington, VA, Apr. 15, 2024.

Panelist, invited by the conference program committee, "Connecting through Storytelling," Veterans Studies Association, Columbia, SC, Mar. 15, 2024.

Panelist, Coevolution of Library Services, Scholarly Communication Infrastructures, and Emergent Academic fields: The Ongoing Case of Veterans Studies," The Charleston Conference, virtual, Nov. 28, 2024.

Keynote speaker, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, School of Law, Veterans symposium, Oct. 27, 2023.

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Presenter and organizer, "Reckoning with the Afterlife of Slavery: Student-led Oral Histories with Descendant Communities," Oral History Association, Baltimore, MD, Oct. 19, 2023.
Panelist, "Out of the Archives: Building a Center for Oral History and Creating Educational Opportunities in and beyond Classrooms," Oral History Association, Baltimore, MD, Oct. 20, 2023.
Organizer and Moderator, "Veterans in History Symposium," Virginia Tech Center for Humanities, Nov. 30, 2022.
Panelist and organizer, "Marginalized in Memory: A Conversation on Veterans History," Society for Military History, Ft. Worth, TX, Apr. 28-May 1, 2022.
Invited panelist, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, history film forum, on "It's a Wonderful Life," featured in Smithsonian Magazine.
Presenter, "Less-than Citizen-Soldiers: Deported Veterans in a Time of Forever War," Oral History Association, virtual conference, October 10, 2021.
Invited speaker, "Veterans in the Margins of Society: Voices from the Incarcerated Veterans Project," Wistariauhurst Museum, Holyoke, MA, Feb. 17, 2021.
Moderator and organizer, "Pause for the Cause: A Conversation on Oral History and Community-Centered Justice," Oral History Association, Baltimore, MD/virtual, Oct. 22, 2020.
Panelist and organizer, "Serving Time: A History of Incarcerated Veterans," U.S. Naval War College conference, "Veterans: Enduring, Surviving, Remembering War," Newport, RI, Sept. 23, 2019.
Panelist and organizer, "Stars, Bars, and Stripes: A History of Incarcerated Veterans Since Vietnam," at Organization of American Historians, Philadelphia, PA, Apr. 4, 2019.
Panelist, "Reparative Justice: Veterans Treatment Court and the Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project," National Council on Public History, Hartford, CT, Mar. 27-30, 2019.
Panelist and organizer, "Collecting Souls: Preserving Trauma in the Incarcerated Veterans Project," Oral History Association Conference, Montreal, Québec, Canada, Oct. 13, 2018.
Presenter, "Voices of Veterans and the Sounds of Trauma: An Aural History Communication Project," Oral History Association, Minneapolis, MI, Oct. 4-7, 2017.
Presenter, "Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project," National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Washington D.C., May 2017.
Presenter, "Back to the World: Incarceration of African American Vietnam Veterans," Oral History Association Conference, Long Beach, CA, Oct. 12-16, 2016.
Presenter, "Overcoming Vietnam: An Oral History of Survivors of the Second Indo-China War," National Conference on Undergraduate Research, La Crosse, WI, 2013.
Presenter, "Through the Eyes of a Marine: The War Experience of Leslie Hopper," Phi Alpha Theta Biennial National Conference, Orlando, FL, Jan. 2012.

Selected Workshops

Instructor, "Introduction to Oral History Interviewing" with faculty and student research assistants who received VT Center for Oral History grants, Feb. 11, 2026.
Participant, invited by The More Than A Fraction Foundation and Virginia Tech Council on History, "Contested Spaces: After the Research" Spring Symposium, March 2-4, 2025.
Participant, invited by the Director of African American history, *Getting Word* Summer Institute, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA, June 23-28, 2024.

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Speaker, invited by the director of library services, "Oral History in Classrooms and Communities," St. Catherine's School, Richmond, VA, Aug. 18, 2023.
Speaker, invited by the conference program committee, "Doing Recent History: The Mechanics," American Political History Conference, Lafayette, IN, June 11, 2022.
Invited speaker, "Neighborhood Voices Oral History Workshop," sponsored by Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and Mass Humanities, Roxbury, MA, Mar. 2020.
Instructor, UMass Oral History Lab, "Crash Course in Oral History," for Forbes Library and UMass graduate students, Amherst MA, Oct. 1, 2019.
Instructor, UMass Oral History Lab, "Crash Course in Oral History," Clark University, Worcester, MA, 2018.
Instructor, UMass Oral History Lab, "Crash Course in Oral History," UMass Center at Springfield, Nov. 30, 2016.

Select Courses Taught
Instructor of Record
Hist 5434, Oral History Methods, Fall 2025
Hist 2276, African American History Since Reconstruction,
Hist 3254, Vietnam War, Fall 2023, Spring 2022.
Hist 2276, African American History Since Reconstruction, Fall 2022.
Hist 3764, Oral History Methods and Practices, Spring 2022.
Virginia Tech

Editorially Reviewed Publications
Featured in, "America's story intertwined with its military history, but a military-civilian disconnect persists," by Deepti Hajela, *AP News*, Sept. 2, 2026.
"Something of a Hero: 50 Years Since the Taxi Driver, *Clio and the Contemporary*, Feb. 10, 2026.
Featured in, "'Consequences of War'–Veterans Incarcerated at Higher Rates and Face Longer Sentences," by Sonner Kehrt, *The War Horse*, (Apr. 18, 2024).
"Imprisoned by War: racialized and violent, modern U.S. warmaking is inextricably linked with our history of mass incarceration" *Inquest Magazine*, (Mar. 21, 2024).
"PACT Act providing health care to burn pit veterans caps decades of denied benefits for veterans," *The Conversation* (Aug 17, 2022)
"Waging Peace in Memory," *Massachusetts Review* (Nov 2019).
Book Review of Breaking the Silence: Survivors Speak about 1965-66 Violence in Indonesia by Putu Oka Sukanta, *The Oral History Review* (Dec 2018).
"Jason Higgins and the Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project" *Oral History Association Spotlight*. (2017).
"Vietnam War Timeline" and "The American-Vietnam War by the Numbers," Vietnam War special issue of *Oklahoma Humanities Magazine* (Fall/Winter 2017).

Podcasts and Media Interviews
Invited author, *OHR Extra!* Interviewed by Jacey Anderson, book review editor of the *Oral History Review*, Mar. 24, 2026.

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Guest, Suite P Productions, "Does America Love Its Veterans?" interviewed by Tercero Munoz, Mar. 18, 2026.
Guest, New Books Network, "Prisoners after War," hosted by John Armenta, Nov. 10, 2025.
Guest, St. Ambrose University KALA Radio program/podcast, "Relevant or Irrelevant," Mar. 31, 2025.
Guest, Military Historians Are People, Too, Jason Higgins – Virginia Tech, hosted by Bill Allison and Brian Feltman, March 11, 2025.
Featured in, "Recording oral histories at Virginia Tech," *Radford News Journal,* by Angelica Ramos, Dec. 31, 2024.
Guest, Book Series by Dr. Anotida Chikumbu, "Veterans in the Age of Mass Incarceration," April 19, 2024.
Guest, Behind the Mission with PsychArmor, Dr. Jason Higgins – Veterans Involvement in the Criminal Legal System, hosted by Duane France, Mar. 22, 2024.
"Service Denied explores effects of war on veterans across generations" *NBC News* (Aug 1, 2022).
Guest, New Books Network, "Service Denied," hosted by Nathan Moore, Aug. 31, 2022.
Co-host, Published By, "The Journal of Veterans Studies," with Joe Forte, Jan. 18, 2022.
Guest, Stacks on Stacks: The Interviews, "Jason Higgins," hosted by Joe Forte, Aug. 30, 2022.
Guest, Stacks on Stacks: The Interviews, "Jason Higgins," hosted by Joe Forte, Sept. 21, 2021.

Oral History-Public History-Digital Humanities Projects

Co-PI, faculty supervisor, "Stories of the Fall and the Rise of Women in the Military," in partnership with AnnMarie Haltermann of UnitingUS and James Dubinsky, Veterans in Society Initiative, 2025. We hosted a series of panels and recorded ten oral history interviews with women veterans. I served as lead interviewer and trained student assistant to record and process oral histories.
Faculty supervisor, "Descendant Communities Reconciliation Project," 2022-25. In partnership with Dr. Kerri Moseley-Hobbs, founder and director of the More Than a Fraction Foundation, I served as project director and faculty supervisor of a student-involved oral history project with descendants of the families who were enslaved at Smithfield and Solitude plantations in Blacksburg, VA. We processed more than 30 interviews and developed a peer-reviewed digital humanities site.
Faculty supervisor, "The Things They Still Carry," oral history project with VT Corps of Cadets alumni who served in the Vietnam War, training current Corps of Cadets students to record oral history interviews, 2023-present. This is a component of a proposed NEH Public Institute to commemorate the end of the Vietnam War.
Project director, "Crossing the Military-Civilian Divide," collaborative project with College of William and Mary that records oral history interviews with diverse groups of military veterans, including African Americans, women, LGBTQ, antiwar veterans, and people with disabilities, 2022-2023. We are building digital exhibit on Scalar to showcase these stories.
Faculty supervisor, "Vietnam War Veterans History Project," in partnership with the Library of Congress, students in my Vietnam War class recorded more than 30 interviews, Virginia Tech, 2022-23.

Service

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Oral History Association Publications Committee, 2025-28.
Continued Appointment Track Faculty Affairs Committee, CATFAC, 2024-26
Research and Scholarship (Global Distinction) Subcommittee, 2025
Search committee for new editor-in-chief, *Journal of Veterans Studies,* 2024.
Faculty advisor, *Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review,* 2021-25.
Reviewer, *Journal of Veterans Studies,* 2021-26.
Oral History Association Teaching Award Selection Committee, 2019-2021.
Reviewer, *Oral History Review*, special issue on ethics, 2020.
Reviewer, *Oral History Review,* 2019.

Other Academic Employment
Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities and Oral History, jointly affiliated with VT Center for Humanities, VT Publishing, Department of History, Virginia Tech, Aug. 2021-July 2023
Graduate Teaching Associate, UMass History Department, 2020-2021.
Graduate Administrative Assistant, UMass Public History Program, 2019-2020.
Graduate Teaching Assistant, UMass History Department, 2016-2019.
Intern, Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA), W.E.B. Du Bois Library, 2017.
Public Historian, Tour Guide and Museum Assistant, Emily Dickinson Museum, 2017-19, Amherst, MA
Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record, Department of English, Oklahoma State University (OSU), 2014-16.
Intern, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, OSU Library, 2014.
Graduate Teaching Assistant/Writing Center Consultant, OSU, 2013-14.
Government Documents, Edmon Low Library, OSU, 2014-15.
Assistant Editor, *Philological Review,* 2011-13.

Languages
French, reading knowledge
Old English/Anglo-Saxon, reading knowledge

References
Corinne Guimont, MLS, Associate Director, Publishing and Digital Scholarship, Virginia Tech, gcorinne@vt.edu.
Christian G. Appy, Ph.D., Professor of History, Director, The Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, appy@history.umass.edu.

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